
Who will see the test results for individual students?

Each student's teacher and parents or guardians will see the individual student results. Individual student results are confidential. Copies will be kept in the student's cumulative file with other confidential data.

How are the STAR test results be used?

Teachers, parents, and students use individual STAR results to help monitor each student's academic progress. Individual student results are merged to prepare grade-level reports by subject area for each school, district, county, and the state. The results are used with other information about student achievement to help make decisions about ways to improve student learning and school programs.

Stanford 9 test results for the 1999 administration were used to calculate the 1999 Academic Performance Index (API) for schools throughout California. The API, a major component of the state's new accountability program, is to be used to rank the academic performance of schools, set targets for growth, and monitor progress over time. The Stanford 9 results for 2000 will be used to see how well schools meet their 1999–2000 targets.

How do the STAR test results fit with other information about a student's academic progress?

STAR test results are one of the ways schools measure student achievement. Tools for monitoring student progress include but are not

limited to standardized tests such as the ones used for STAR, district tests, classroom tests and projects, and student grades. Test results from the STAR program can be used to help measure student progress over time and to provide comparisons with other states and the nation. Results from the STAR augmentation can be used to see how well students are meeting state-adopted content standards for the subject areas tested.

How can parents get their questions about STAR and their student's results and the API answered?

Parents or guardians should begin with their students' teachers. Additional information may be available through the school principal or counselor. Questions about the STAR program also can be directed to the STAR test coordinator at the school district office.



Standardized Testing and Reporting Program

STAR 2000



Information for Parents

February 2000

Standardized Testing and Reporting Program STAR 2000

Questions and Answers for Parents

What is the STAR testing program?

One part of the state testing system is called the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. This program, administered annually, was authorized in 1997 by state law (Senate Bill 376). The purpose of the STAR testing program is to help measure how well students are learning basic academic skills.

Who must take the STAR tests?

All students in grades 2 through 11 must take the designated STAR tests. Students learning English and students in special education programs are included. Only students whose Individual Education Plans (IEP) specifically exempt them from standardized testing and students with written parent requests to exempt them do not take the STAR tests.

What tests do the students take in 2000?

For the third year, public school students are to be tested in English with the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, Form T (Stanford 9), published by Harcourt Educational Measurement.

As part of the STAR program, students are to be given additional test questions that match state-adopted content standards for reading, writing, and mathematics. The purpose of the augmented test is to better align the STAR program with state standards.

What subjects are tested in English?

Students in grades 2 through 8 are tested with the Stanford 9 in reading, written expression (language), spelling, and mathematics. Students in grades 9 through 11 are tested in reading, writing (language), mathematics, history-social science, and science. The questions for the STAR augmentation cover reading, writing, and mathematics in grades 2 through 11.

What about limited English-proficient students?

In addition to taking the designated STAR tests in English, limited English-proficient Spanish-speaking students who first enrolled in California public schools less than 12 months prior to testing must take a primary language test in Spanish. Primary language testing is optional if the students first enrolled more than 12 months prior to testing. The designated test in Spanish for spring 2000 is the Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, Second Edition (SABE/2). This test is published by CTB/McGraw-Hill.

Who gives the STAR tests, and how long do they take?

Teachers who receive special training give the STAR tests at the local school. It takes about 7 hours for the Stanford 9 and STAR augmentation. The primary language test in Spanish adds about 4 hours for limited English-proficient students taking the SABE/2. In most schools STAR testing is spread over several days.

How are the questions on the tests asked?

All of the test questions are in a multiple-choice format. These questions require students to select the correct answer from four possible answers. Questions on the Stanford 9 and SABE/2 tests have been tried out with thousands of students throughout the United States to see if they are appropriate for the grade level and content being tested. Questions for the STAR augmentation have been tried out on students throughout California.

What is done to help students with special needs?

Most students with special needs take the test with all other students under standard conditions. Certain accommodations and adaptations such as additional time, Braille, or large-print tests are provided for those special education students who need assistance. Accommodations also include revised test directions or format or the use of aides and/or aids to provide additional help. Testing accommodations for students in special education will vary depending on the content of the specific test. The accommodations must be based on explicit statements in each student's IEP.

How and when will parents get their student's test results?

Each student's test results must be reported to parents within 20 working days after the school district receives them. In most cases, these reports will be mailed. Group results by grade level for each school, district, county, and the state will be posted on the Internet no later than July 15, 2000. Results for the Stanford 9 and the STAR augmentation and results for the SABE/2 will be on separate reports.
